TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 2, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 28 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 6.8 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 13 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 217.0 billion ton-miles, down 0.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 28 totaled 395,779 -- the highest since November 22, 1986. The week's carloadings were up 8.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 0.4 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 7.3 percent in the East and 8.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 18 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 7,565 cars (41.6 percent), and chemicals and allied products increased by 3,289 cars (13.4 percent). Thirteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

## Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 21 totaled 98,489 trailers and/or containers, 1.5 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 12 weeks of the year was 1,130,465 trailers and/or containers, up 3.0 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/28/87:

| | Loadings in Week ended March 28, 1987 | | Change from Corresponding Week 1986 | | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | | Cars | Percent | | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 25,744 | I | 7,565 | 41.6 | D | 1,150 | 4.3 |
| Other farm products | 3,777 | I | 1,033 | 37.6 | D | 402 | 9.6 |
| Metallic ores | 17,249 | I | 2,823 | 19.6 | I | 2,067 | 13.6 |
| Coal | 105,820 | D | 1,471 | 1.4 | D | 1,721 | 1.6 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 13,239 | I | 226 | 1.7 | I | 888 | 7.2 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 8,809 | I | 242 | 2.8 | D | 1,397 | 13.7 |
| Grain mill products | 10,920 | I | 1,232 | 12.7 | I | 8 | 0.1 |
| Food and kindred products | 10,799 | I | 19 | 0.2 | D | 437 | 3.9 |
| Primary forest products | 10,860 | I | 604 | 5.9 | I | 251 | 2.4 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 8,768 | I | 182 | 2.1 | I | 610 | 7.5 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 12,978 | D | 392 | 2.9 | I | 369 | 2.9 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 27,878 | I | 3,289 | 13.4 | D | 426 | 1.5 |
| Petroleum products | 4,694 | I | 811 | 20.9 | D | 258 | 5.2 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 10,108 | I | 405 | 4.2 | I | 77 | 0.8 |
| Coke | 5,016 | I | 1,064 | 26.9 | I | 399 | 8.6 |
| Metals and products | 9,390 | I | 8 | 0.1 | I | 1,033 | 12.4 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 21,733 | I | 3,032 | 16.2 | D | 186 | 0.8 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 9,033 | I | 1,415 | 18.6 | I | 18 | 0.2 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 2,841 | D | 2,692 | 48.7 | I | 74 | 2.7 |
| All other carloads | 75,985 | I | 9,879 | 14.9 | I | 1,866 | 2.5 |
| LCL traffic | 138 | I | 35 | 34.0 | I | 17 | 14.0 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 395,779 | I | 29,309 | 8.0 | I | 1,700 | 0.4 |
| Corresponding week of 1986 | 366,470 | | | | | | |

| | 1987 | 1986 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (13 weeks) | 4,840,105 | 4,857,653 | D 0.4 |

| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 Weeks ended March 21 | 199.5 | 202.3 (Rev.) | D 1.8 |
| Week ended March 28 | 17.6 | 16.4 | I 6.8 |
| 13 Weeks cumulative | 217.0 | 218.7 | D 0.8 |

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